Cotton Spinning Mills in Madhya Pradesh

4913. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of cotton is produced in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether there are sufficient number of cotton spinning mills in the State to make optimum use of the cotton produced there;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to set up cotton spinning mills in Madhya Pradesh, and

(e) when these mills are likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT). (a) to (c). During the cotton season 1988–89, 1989–90 1990–91, the quantity of cotton produced in Madhya Pradesh was to the tune of 12.03 lakh bales, 13.40 lakh bales and 16.00 lakh bales respectively. In order of quantity—wise production of cotton in various States of the country, the State of Madhya Pradesh, on the average, ranks fourth. From the information available, 82 units have been issued licence/ registrations for total capacity of 19.44 lakh spindles and 31,153 rotors for setting–up spinning and composite mills in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The yearly average cotton consumption for all the 82 units comes about 8.39 lakh bales of 175 kgs each. In view of the average pressing of cotton in Madhya Pradesh being 13.81 lakh bales per year, the cotton produced in the State is more than the spinning capacity licenced/ registered in the State.

(d) The Central Government has got no proposal to set–up spinning mills in Madhya Pradesh at present.

(e) Does not arise, in view of (d) above.

Employment to Weavers

4914. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to provide employment to the weavers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) In addition to the existing package of employment oriented measures, Central Government has recently formulated and announced two new schemes, viz., (i) Margin Money for Destitute Weavers, and (ii) Development of Integrated Handloom Villages, with a view to provide employment to destitute weavers living below poverty line and for development of handloom villages to ensure sustained and gainful employment to the handloom weavers.

(b) The Scheme of 'Margin Money for Destitute Weavers' announced for implementation during the current financial year envisages capital support to the weavers who are in destitution through cooperativisation. The scale of assistance is @ Rs. 2000/- per destitute member subject to a maximum of Rs. 1.00 lakh per society. The scheme called 'Development of Integrated Handloom Villages', also introduced for implementation during 1991–92 adopts a cluster approach for development of selected handloom villages in the country by providing all types of facilities in terms of skill upgradation, productivity, infrastructure etc.

to give concerted and special attention to the languishing craft of weaving.

Problems of Opium Growers

4915. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of FIINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems of the opium growers in the country;

(b) whether there has been a sharp fall in opium production in the country in general and Jhaiawar region of Rajasthan in particular;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the main problems being faced by the opium growers; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to solve their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) During 1990–91, opium production in the country including that in Jhalawar region of Rajasthan had fallen marginally as compared to previous years.

(c) The fall in production of opium was on account of damage caused to poppy crop by mohilla disease and rains, etc. The main problem being faced by the opium growers is that due to crop damage some cultivators fell short of the minimum qualifying yield required for renewal of their licences.

(d) While formulating the policy guidelines relating to grant of licences for poppy cultivation for the year 1991–92, the Government has taken into account the damage caused to the poppy crop during the previous year. The minimum qualifying yield for grant of licence has not been increased but retained at the level of previous year. Further, the cultivators, in whose villages there was widespread/some damage to poppy crop during 1990–91 due to pests and rains, etc. and where such damage was reported and verified by the departmental officers, have been made eligible for grant of licences for 1991–92 even if they had tendered less than the qualifying yield. In addition to these measures and to ensure that cultivators are not delicensed due to marginal shortfalls in the qualifying yield, instructions have been issued to the Narcotics Commissioner of India to condone shortfalls in yield upto 500 grammes per hectare.

Central Assistance to States

4916. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have released the central assistance to any States without getting the conditions laid down for release of grant fulfilled by those States;

(b) if so, the names of those States and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to release grants to other States also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) Normal Central assistance is released to the States for financing their Annual Plans in monthly instalments to be adjusted at the end of the year on the basis of statement of anticipated expenditure on the States, Annual Plans to be furnished by the State Governments. In addition, additional Central assistance is released to the State Governments for externally aided projects on the basis of reimbursements made by external agencies. No